

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-12 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-07 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5363

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: HERBICIDE RESEARCH PROJECT

REF: MEXICO 1822

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR APRIL 10 ON OTHER SUBJECT, DIRECTOR IN CHIEF FOREIGN SECRETARIAT CASTRO Y CASTRO ASKED POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO QUERY WASHINGTON ABOUT WHETHER THE RECENT REORGANIZATION OF USG ANTI- NARCOTICS EFFORTS WOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT ON PROPOSED HERBICIDE STUDY. POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD, BUT AGREED TO QUERY WASHINGTON.

2. CASTRO Y CASTRO REFERRED AGAIN TO THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS PROJECT AND SAID THAT RECENT MEETING OF HIS INFORMAL INTER- AGENCY TASK FORCE HAD EXPRESSED DESIRE TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF SUBSTANCES WE PLANNED TO TEST IN THIS PROJECT; WHAT ARE THEIR CHARACTERISTICS, ANTECEDENTS AND SELECTIVITY. BY ANTECEDENTS WE UNDERSTAND CASTRO Y CASTRO TO MEAN ANY PREVIOUS USE IN VIET NAM HERBICIDE PROGRAMS, AND BY SELECTIVITY THE SUBSTANCES' ABILITY TO KILL MARIJUANA OR POPPY WITHOUT HURTING OTHER CROPS.

3. CASTRO Y CASTRO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DURING VISIT
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TO BELTSVILLE BY MEXICAN SCIENTIST HE WAS PERMITTED TO SEE HERBICIDE TESTING ONLY IN GREENHOUSE CONDITIONS. MEXICAN SCIENTIST ALLEGEDLY SAW MARIJUANA GROWING IN OPEN FIELD BUT WAS TOLD HE COULD NOT OBSERVE OUR TESTS IN THE OPEN AT THIS TIME. THIS STORY HAS EVIDENTLY INCREASED ALREADY EXISTING MEXICAN LEERINESS OVER THIS PROJECT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST WASHINGTON RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED ABOVE.

MCBRIDE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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